

Coronavirus response - Federation University Australia

Monday, 3 February 2020, 10.00 am

Dear *|FName|*,

Yesterday, a number of universities sought clarification of the new travel restrictions from Australia's Deputy Chief Medical Officer, via Universities Australia. The advice received is outlined below and also updates the [FAQs attached](#).

As this is a highly dynamic, evolving situation and Federation University is receiving regular updates from Australian authorities, we will review our advice each day and update via FedNews for staff and students and via our newsroom. Where new advice has been issued, we will also update staff and students via email. Please also follow the government advice via the links provided below.

The advice received from Australia's Deputy Chief Medical Officer at 8.30 pm, Sunday, 2 February is:

1. Students and staff from Hubei Province who have arrived in the past 14 days will need to self-isolate for 14 days from the day that they departed Hubei Province.
2. Students and staff from other provinces of mainland China who arrived on or after 1 February 2020 will need to self-isolate for 14 days from the day they departed mainland China.
3. Students and staff from other provinces of mainland China who arrived prior to 1 February 2020 do not need to self-isolate.
4. Students and staff from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, unless they have been in Hubei Province in the past 14 days or in any part of mainland China on or after 1 February 2020, do not need to self-isolate.

Under all scenarios listed above we note that if anyone in these groups develops symptoms, they need to call a doctor or health clinic, advise them that they have recently returned from mainland China or been in contact with a confirmed case, and arrange an urgent assessment.

In addition to this, the following travel and health warnings apply and must be followed by all staff and students within the University community. Please note, these are precautionary measures, which are being instituted nationwide to prevent the spread of coronavirus in Australia.

Travel – the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has issued new travel advice. The recommendation is do not travel to China due to the increased risk of contracting the coronavirus.

As a result the University will not be able to approve any travel into China for staff and students, in line with this recommendation and to ensure that staff and students do not become quarantined while travelling.

We have also been advised by the government that any foreign nationals, arriving in Australia from 1 February 2020, will not be allowed entry into Australia. This advice will be reviewed in 14 days by the government. With this in mind, I strongly encourage any staff or students in this situation, to delay their travel until after this time.

Health – in line with the Department of Health recommendations, any Australian citizens or permanent residents returning from China from 1 February 2020 must isolate themselves in their home for 14 days upon their return to Australia, and monitor for symptoms.

Anyone who believes they have been in exposed to coronavirus should also isolate themselves in their home for 14 days and monitor for symptoms.

Staff and students will not be penalised for home isolation which is in line with Australian Government advice.

This means, they should not attend public places, in particular work, school, childcare or public areas of university and higher education campuses, for example attending lectures. There is further information in our [FAQs attached](#).

Our university response team is actively and closely monitoring events as the situation continues to evolve rapidly around the world. Our staff are liaising with federal health officials and DFAT and are ready to act on their directions as the situation evolves.

Links to information from health authorities and DFAT

Please read the [attached FAQs](#) for further information.

Other important resources to follow include:

[DFAT Smartraveller advice – novel coronavirus outbreak](#)

[DFAT Smartraveller advice – travel to and within China](#)

[Department of Health update](#)

[Q&A on coronaviruses, WHO](#)

Best regards,

Professor Helen Bartlett
Vice-Chancellor and President
Federation University Australia



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